Rs. 8,60,000 crores per annum. Further, certain processed food import like fruit juice concentrates are used by Indian industries as raw material for their domestic products.

With regard to branding of imported food products, it is governed by the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 under the administrative control of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Further, brand names and trade marks are governed by the Trade Mark Act, 1999 under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry. There is no restriction of using brand name of foreign companies by domestic companies, subject to the entering into Registered Users Agreement. This Ministry has not received any complaint about misuse of brand name of foreign companies.

Percentage of school going children

†6. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought out in the annual status report regarding education that there has been no change in the percentage of school going children in the age group of 6-14 years in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to bring change in the percentage of children in the lower age group; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2006 is brought out by an NGO namely PRATHAM. The estimated enrolment of children in the 6-14 years age group as per the ASER 2006 is more or less the same as reported in ASER 2005.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan had, however, conducted an independent survey in July-August 2005 which brought out that 1.34 crore children

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

were out of school in the 6-14 years age group. This figure has dropped to 70 lakhs in March, 2006 as per State Government Reports.

(c) and (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several interventions, such as, opening of new schools, setting up of Education Guarantee Scheme Centres and Alternative & Innovative Education facilities, provision of incentives; focus on education of girls and weaker sections of society and improvement in quality of education in schools have been undertaken to enhance enrolment of children in the 6-14 years age group.

Literacy for poverty alleviation

7. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that literacy has to be integral to any strategy for poverty alleviation as it is the single hurdle on the path to empowerment of the poor;

(b) if so, the comments of Government thereon;

(c) the aims and objectives set for the coming decade;

(d) whether Government are making sustained efforts to cover every illiterate, gender-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Literacy is integral to any strategy for poverty alleviation and plays a major role in the empowerment of the poor. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. Functional Literacy, *inter alia*, implies:—

- achieving self-reliance in literacy and numeracy
- becoming aware of the causes of deprivation and moving towards amelioration of oppressive conditions through organization and participation in the process of development
- acquisition of skills to improve the economic status and general well-being